

The 21st Day of July

Commemoration of our Venerable Fathers among the Saints, Symeon of Emessa the Fool for Christ, and his companion in fasting, John; and the Holy Prophet Ezekiel.

Evening Service

At “Lord, I call...,” 6 stikhera.

3 stikhera to Venerable Fathers, in Tone 4: *Special melody: “Thou gavest a sign...”*

Dwelling in the desert, O blessèd ones, /
In unity of mind, /
You didst cause the agitations of the flesh to wither away /
By fasting, prayer and enlightening contemplation; /
Thereby illumining your hearts /
With the pleasing gifts of the spirit, ///
O Symeon and John, the confirmation of monastics

Through the pretense of foolishness, O blessèd one /
Thou didst make foolish the wisdom of wickedness, /
Performing wondrous signs and working miracles, expelling demons, /
Enlightening those dwelling in the darkness of sin, /
While preserving thy clarity of mind amidst the turmoil of this world, /
Thou didst receive the reward of dispassion from God ///
O our father Symeon.

Revealing thyself through subtle humility /
Full of mercy and compassion, and full of love for God, /
O divinely-inspired one, /
Humble and meek, thou didst walk the earth like an angel /
Living thy life as if in heaven. /
Therefore, because of thy purity O blessèd Symeon, ///
The Father, Son and the Holy Spirit descended to rest upon thee.

And 3 stikhera to the Prophet, in Tone 8: *Special melody: “O most glorious wonder...”*

O wondrous Ezekiel, /
Having cleansed beforehand thy body and thy soul, /
Thou didst behold in a vision, in the purity of thy mind, /
The ineffable glory of God /
Ascending, like lightening, beyond all understanding, /
Borne by a multitude of divine cherubim /
Accompanied by the hymns of countless voices, ///
O most-wise and divinely blessèd one.

O God-pleasing Ezekiel /

In imitation of Christ thou didst long endure the oppression of the foe /

Being cruelly tortured; /

Becoming the prefigurement of the precious Cross /

Which was to be the salvation and deliverance of the world, /

O divinely-revealed one. /

Entreat that all who sing thy praises may come share in this deliverance and salvation.

O divinely-inspired Ezekiel, /

Receiving the scroll from the hands of the Almighty, /

Its words became the sweetest honey in thy mouth, /

And thou didst become a prophet foretelling the sacred mysteries, /

One who has seen God—a God-seeing theologian, ///

Granting from God understanding to the raging assembly.

Glory... now and ever..., Theotokion, in the Same Tone:

Rejoice, O enlightenment of our souls, /

Rejoice, forgiveness of sinners, /

Rejoice, correction of the negligent, /

Rejoice, O consolation, helper and joy of those in sorrow, /

Rejoice, O gracious healer of infirm spirits, /

Rejoice, O reconciliation with God and our intercessor ///

Rejoice, pure Lady, who art holier beyond compare than the Seraphim!

Or the Stavrotheotokion:

“What is this sight that I see, /

What do mine eyes behold, O Master? /

Thou, Who sustainest all creation, lifted up on the Tree, /

Dost die granting life to all,” /

Cried the Theotokos, weeping, when she beheld upon the Cross ///

The God-man Who had ineffably shone forth from her.

Or Dogmatic Theotokion if a resurrection service.

The General Troparion to the Venerable Fathers, in Tone 4:

O God of our fathers /

Deal with us according to Thy compassion /

Take not away Thy mercy from us /

But through the prayers of our fathers ///

Guide our lives in peace.

The General Troparion to the Prophet, in Tone 2:

We celebrate today the memory of Thy prophet Ezekiel; ///
Through him, we implore Thee, O Lord, to save our souls.

Morning Service

The Canon for the Venerable Fathers and the Prophet, in Tone 4 *(The composition of
Theophan)*

incomplete as of 6/5/13

After Ode 3:

The Kontakion for the Prophet in Tone 4: Special Melody: “Thou hast appeared today...”

Thou wast revealed as a prophet of God, /
O Wondrous Ezekiel, /
By prophesying to all the coming incarnation of the Lord: /
The Son of God born before the ages, ///
The Lamb, and the Creator of all.

After Ode 6:

The Kontakion for the Venerable Fathers, in Tone 2:

Let us praise [the venerable] Symeon /
As an equal to the angels, /
For he walked in the flesh upon the earth as a bodiless angel /
Shining forth to all as an example of the virtues; /
And with him let us honor his companion, /
The ever memorable and God-bearing [father] John ///
For they ceaselessly pray to the Lord for us with faith and love.